



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 February 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to CBS, a widespread power outage hit about 1 p.m. Tuesday, knocking out electricity for businesses, homes and traffic lights throughout south Florida. The outage apparently was caused by a blown transformer, a Florida Power & Light (FPL) spokesperson said. (See item [1](#))
- The Associated Press reports police in Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina, fired tear gas at Bosnian Serb rioters Tuesday to prevent them from storming the building of the U.S. Consulate after protests against Kosovo's independence. A smaller group split away from the almost 10,000 peaceful protesters in Banja Luka and headed toward the U.S. Consulate, breaking shop windows along the way and throwing stones at police. (See item [30](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: **ELEVATED**,
Cyber: **ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 26, CBS* – (Florida) **Widespread power outage in south Florida.** A widespread power outage hit about 1 p.m. Tuesday, knocking out electricity for businesses, homes and traffic lights throughout south Florida. The outage apparently was caused by a blown transformer, a Florida Power & Light (FPL) spokesperson said. CNN is reporting eight power plants are down, and that FPL is experiencing massive transmission problems affecting more than four million customers.

Source: <http://cbs2.com/national/FPL.power.electricity.2.663086.html>

2. *February 26, RenewableEnergyWorld.com* – (Nevada) **Nevada PUC to rule on legality of renting or leasing RE systems.** On Wednesday, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) is expected to rule on the legality of renting or leasing renewable energy equipment in the state, a decision that could have wide-reaching implications for the distributed energy market. The PUCN argues that renting or leasing renewable energy equipment in Nevada is illegal because the renter/seller acts as a public utility. Companies doing business in Nevada may suffer most from such a ruling. For example, SunEdison LLC, the largest owner-operator of renewable energy systems in North America, may be prevented from developing tens of megawatts of solar photovoltaics in the state. Golden Sierra Power Inc., a company that offers leasing options for customers who want to install renewable energy systems, may also be completely shut out of Nevada's market. These companies contend that the PUCN's interpretation of the statute defining a regulated utility is too broad. In comments filed separately earlier this month, the companies wrote that the statute, which was drafted in 1919, does not reflect the realities of the shifting energy landscape. Instead of defining a utility simply on ownership of a system, the companies want the PUCN to define a utility based on the production and delivery of energy. If the PUCN defines a utility based solely upon equipment ownership, it will drastically reduce the potential of the state's renewable energy market, argue the stake-holding companies.

Source: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=51667>

3. *February 26, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Alabama wind leaves 1 dead, 40,000 without power.** About 40,000 homes and businesses in central Alabama are without power after the storm. Officials say several school systems in the region canceled classes or delayed openings Tuesday morning because of the blackouts. Forecasters say the storms broke out ahead of a cold front that could bring snow flurries to parts of Alabama by early Wednesday.
4. *February 25, Progress Energy* – (National) **Progress Energy commits to transparency regarding greenhouse gas emissions.** Progress Energy has committed to providing detailed information about greenhouse gas emissions from the company's operations, through its voluntary participation in The Climate Registry (TCR) – a collaboration among states, provinces, and tribes aimed at developing and managing a common greenhouse gas emissions reporting system. As a founding reporter, Progress Energy agrees to annually calculate and report both direct and indirect emissions of the six primary greenhouse gases from all company power plants, vehicle fleet, and other operations. Progress Energy is the first utility to join TCR in Florida and one of the first in the Southeast. In 2008, Progress Energy will conduct a comprehensive, companywide greenhouse gas emissions inventory using protocols established by TCR. The inventory will be verified by a third party to ensure accuracy.

Source: <http://www.progress-energy.com/aboutus/news/article.asp?id=18082>

5. *February 25, South Florida Business Journal* – (Florida; Southeast) **Expert says Florida could export solar power.** Florida's strong sunshine could make it an exporter of electrical power in the near future, said the executive vice president of Ausra, the company hired by Florida Power & Light Co. (FPL) to build the world's largest solar power plant somewhere in Florida in the next few years. The utility is currently looking for a two-square-mile piece of land in central Florida, possibly on former orange groves east of Tampa. "The costs will be 20 percent higher here than in the desert Southwest, but still lower than the rest of the southeast. Places like Georgia and the Carolinas may want Florida's power," he said. FPL is planning to build 300 megawatts of solar generating capacity in Florida using Ausra's solar thermal technology. As a first step, FPL expects to construct a ten- megawatt pilot project at an existing power plant in the next year. The Ausra executive is expected to call on the U.S. Senate to extend solar energy tax credits, which are set to expire at the end of 2008.

Source:

http://southflorida.bizjournals.com/southflorida/stories/2008/02/25/daily11.html?jst=cn_cn_lk

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *February 25, WTOC 11 Savannah* – (Georgia) **Chemical plant catches fire in Liberty County.** Several fire departments around Riceboro, Georgia, had to be called out early Monday morning when part of a chemical plant caught fire. The fire broke out around 3am in what is called a scrubber at the Chem-Tal plant on Highway 17. About 100 workers had to be evacuated and the plant was sealed off for about an hour while firefighters put out the fire. "It appears the incinerator caught fire, one of the incinerators did," a firefighter with Liberty County Fire told WTOC. "The actual fire brigade personnel at the plant is responsible for extinguishing with the water cannons they have on the scene." There are no reports of injuries.

Source: http://www.wtoctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7919496&nav=menu89_4_5

7. *February 25, Chemical & Engineering News* – (National) **Plant blast rekindles dust debate.** The massive explosion in a dusty sugar plant in Georgia earlier this month has reopened debates on how to reduce the likelihood of explosions due to combustible dust, hundreds of which have occurred over the past three decades. Dust explosions unfold in waves, says a professor of chemical process safety at Michigan Technological University. The rapid-fire explosions can roll through a plant—a moving fireball of flames and violence. In November 2006, the Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) made a series of recommendations based on a report evaluating a series of explosions and their investigations. However, CSB has no regulatory authority, but the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) does. Hence, the board recommended that OSHA issue a general comprehensive dust standard to become part of its inspection protocols to address hazard assessment, engineering controls, housekeeping, and worker training for a wide range of chemical, rubber, metal-processing, plastics, and food-processing companies that generate combustible dust. CSB wanted OSHA to regulate all companies that generate combustible dust in the same

way it chose to regulate grain-handling facilities. As the new standards went into place, grain dust explosions rapidly fell. In a 2003 report, OSHA heralded this success, saying injuries due to grain explosions had decreased by 55 percent and deaths by 70 percent. However, OSHA did not follow CSB's recommendation for a general combustible dust regulation. Instead, it held back and instituted a national emphasis program, similar to what CSB had recommended as an interim step. Whether the Georgia blasts will trigger pressure that leads to a general dust regulation is yet to be seen.

Source: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/government/86/8608gov1.html>

8. *February 25, CCH Business and Corporate Compliance* – (Connecticut) **OSHA proposes nearly \$43,000 in fines against Stratford, Conn., manufacturer following chemical spill and injury.** The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Hampford Research Inc., a Stratford, Connecticut, chemical products manufacturer, for 32 alleged serious and other-than-serious violations of safety and health standards. On August 9, 2007, an employee suffered burns while attempting to clean up a chemical spill caused by a forklift that hit a barrel containing thionyl chloride. Regarding the spill and cleanup, OSHA found that the company did not: conduct evaluations to determine cleanup hazards; assess the controls and protective equipment needed for responders and the capabilities of the responders; obtain appropriate information about the spilled chemical; establish and implement a decontamination procedure; or make proper respiratory protection available. Additional hazards identified at the plant included: deficiencies in its respiratory protection, hazardous energy control, chemical process safety management and hazard communication programs; tripping and fall hazards; not verifying employees' abilities to safely operate fork trucks; unsafe means for dispensing flammable liquid from a 55-gallon drum; unguarded moving machine parts; and failure to establish a regulated area and take air samples for employees working with methylene chloride.

Source: <http://hr.cch.com/news/safety/022508a.asp>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

9. *February 26, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Vermont Yankee clears key hurdle on license extension.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proceeding with the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant's request to extend its license for 20 years beyond its currently scheduled 2012 expiration date. In a safety evaluation report, the regulators said the plant's operators had satisfied the requirements of federal law. That leaves two more major steps before the approval is granted: a review by the NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, which holds a hearing next month; and a hearing next summer by a quasi-judicial panel affiliated with the federal agency on an anti-nuclear group's concerns about extending the license. A technical adviser to the nuclear watchdog group New England Coalition said the July hearing before the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board would focus on three concerns – or “contentions” – raised by his group. He said the group would introduce evidence concerning cracks in Vermont Yankee's steam dryer – a large metal shroud over the reactor that reduces the water content in steam before it is sent from the reactor to the plant's turbine. The other two

contentions have to do with the aging of metal in plant components – one focusing on the reactor itself and the other on piping and nozzles bringing water to the reactor. This year, lawmakers are considering whether Vermont Yankee should have an independent review before being allowed to renew its license.

Source:

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/national/northeast/view.bg?articleid=1076034&srvc=rss>

10. *February 25, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Exelon’s Oyster Creek nuclear license renewal delayed.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) decided last week not to renew the operating license for the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in Lacey, New Jersey, for now, while it considers an appeal of a federal atomic board decision, according to officials. The commission made its decision 31 months into NRC consideration of AmerGen Energy Co.’s application to run Oyster Creek until 2029. The 38-year-old plant’s current license is scheduled to expire in April 2009. “We do not see this memo as having an impact or delay on Oyster Creek’s license renewal application,” an Oyster Creek spokeswoman said in an e-mail. The NRC commissioners are considering an appeal of a three-judge Atomic Safety and Licensing Board panel decision in December. Oyster Creek’s drywell – a corroded radiation barrier surrounding the reactor – is thick enough to last through the license renewal period, according to the decision. A coalition of six environmental and other groups that oppose the relicensing filed the appeal. The NRC spokesman said there is no estimate on when the commission will decide on the appeal.

Source: <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080225/NEWS/80225063>

11. *February 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Nuclear waste shipments are expected to increase.** Department of Energy (DOE) officials say shipments of nuclear waste will increase as leftover material from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee is moved to a storage site in New Mexico. As many as 70 truckloads of transuranic waste will be shipped annually to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico. This is in addition to shipments of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel rods that have been trucked across the country since 1996. The new shipments of transuranic waste consist of protective gear, tools, lab equipment, and sludge that have come in contact with spent fuel rods or weapons-grade plutonium, federal officials said. More than 6,400 shipments of waste have moved across the nation to the plant that opened in 1999. “During this time, there has never been a radiation leak during transportation,” a DOE spokesman said. A nuclear waste expert said the material could be more high risk than the U.S. government has classified it. “The accident to be concerned about is the one with a fire that puts respiratory plutonium in the air. You can have thousands of people at risk.” The DOE spokesman said all nuclear materials are transported in sealed containers capable of withstanding high-speed accidents and several-hundred-degree fires.

Source: http://www.oakridger.com/stories/022508/new_250720726.shtml

Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *February 26, United Press International* – (National) **Software can analyze, forecast terrorism.** U.S. scientists have developed a software program that can analyze threats and forecast acts of terrorism. Researchers at the University of Maryland's Institute for Advanced Computer Studies created the Stochastic Opponent Modeling Agents (SOMA) Terror Organization Portal, allowing analysts to query automatically learned rules on terrorist organization behavior, forecast potential behavior based on those rules and communicate with other analysts examining the same subjects. The scientists said SOMA is a formal, logical-statistical reasoning framework that uses data about past behavior of terror groups to generate rules about the likely behavior of each of about 30 groups. The project is funded by the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research.
Source: <http://www.politicalgateway.com/news/read/133038>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *February 26, Duke Chronicle* – (Virginia) **JMU, others fall prey to e-mail scam.** Another university has fallen prey to the phishing attack that targeted Duke beginning in mid-January. James Madison University's student newspaper, the Breeze, reported Monday the online hoax victimized the school. JMU Information Technology alerted students, faculty and staff Friday that a message appearing to come from the school's help desk was sent to e-mail account users asking for personal information. At Duke, messages appearing to be from the Office of Information Technology threatened to cut users off from their e-mail accounts unless they responded to the e-mails with their passwords. The OIT director of computing systems said in a statement that the attack was difficult to halt because the phishers frequently changed the address from which they operated. Princeton University, Columbia University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame are a few of nearly one dozen schools targeted by the phishing scam, SecurityFocus, an Web site that tracks Internet security issues, reported February 1. Phishers are very difficult to identify, and the Web site also reported that the Princeton Office of Information Technology recently blocked phishing activity from a computer belonging to a domain registered to Nigeria.
Source:
<http://media.www.dukechronicle.com/media/storage/paper884/news/2008/02/26/News/Jmu-Others.Fall.Prey.To.EMail.Scam-3234878.shtml>
14. *February 25, East Valley Tribune* – (Arizona) **Scam targets families with kids in school.** State education officials are warning parents about a possible phone scam that targets families concerned about their children's test scores. At least six families have told officials that they have received unsolicited phone calls from people who claim to either work for the state Department of Education or who claim to possess private student data. "They are using this information to pressure parents into buying educational software and other materials," said the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Department officials said the callers are telling parents that their children are

not getting good enough grades or test scores, and that the business can help them. Parents have reported that the callers have used extremely high-pressure sales tactics. The official wants parents to know that no outside companies should have access to student data, like grades or scores on Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards. The department urges any parents who receive suspicious phone calls to contact the Arizona Attorney General Consumer Fraud Division.

Source: <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/109912>

15. *February 25, Bloomberg* – (National) **Former General Re, AIG executives convicted of fraud.** Four former executives of General Reinsurance Corp. and a former American International Group Inc. executive were convicted of fraud charges for helping to deceive AIG investors through a sham transaction in 2000. A former General Re chief executive officer and a former chief financial officer were among those found guilty on Monday in federal court in Hartford, Connecticut. Prosecutors said they helped AIG fraudulently add \$500 million in loss reserves, a key indicator of an insurer's health. Jurors deliberated six days and convicted each defendant of all charges, including conspiracy, securities fraud, mail fraud and making false statements to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The defendants face maximum terms of 20 years on the most serious charges. Advisory guidelines typically call for lesser terms.

Source:

<http://bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aCmY1BTT8LQo&refer=home>

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Transportation Sector

16. *February 26, CNN* – (Florida) **Man held after bolting from Miami airport security point.** A man who bolted from a security checkpoint at Miami International Airport on Monday afternoon is in custody, and officials are trying to determine what sparked his action. The man was also found with "contradictory" IDs, bearing different names from different countries, according to one official close to the investigation. The man aroused the suspicion of a Transportation Security Administration document checker, the official said. The document checker reported his suspicion to a behavior detection officer. The man went through a metal detector without triggering an alarm, then went on to secondary screening. He bolted from there without apparent reason, going back through the metal detector to the unsecure side of the airport, the official said. He was followed by TSA officers to the airport curb, where he was apprehended by Miami-Dade police officers. Officials said they are trying to determine the man's nationality and why he acted as he did. The TSA closed the checkpoint for a brief time but did not evacuate the terminal.

Source:

http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/02/25/mia.airport.incident/index.html?section=cnn_latest

17. *February 26, Associated Press* – (International) **Northwest Airlines plane makes emergency landing in Tokyo after burning odor detected.** A Northwest Airlines flight made an emergency landing at Tokyo's main airport Tuesday after a burning smell was detected inside the cabin, officials said. The flight, carrying 403 passengers and

crew members, landed safely at Narita International Airport about half an hour after taking off from the airport for the Philippine capital of Manila, according to airport police and airline officials. An airport police spokesman said the pilot requested an emergency landing because of a possible fire inside the cabin after crew members reported the smell of something burning near the lavatories. However, investigators who boarded the Boeing 747-400 found no trace of fire or smoke, the official said. No injuries were reported, and police said no crime was suspected.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,332615,00.html>

18. *February 26, Jackson Sun* – (National) **Officials to tackle security gap.** Homeland security officials and law enforcement from around the nation will begin next month to address a security gap that allowed Jackson, Tennessee, mayor and others to bring their personal firearms aboard commercial flights with little scrutiny. Plans for the meeting were outlined in a letter sent last week by the assistant secretary of the Transportation Security Administration to the House Homeland Security chairman. In 2000, congressional investigators breached airport security using phony police credentials, and aviation security experts have said the current system is still vulnerable to the same kind of attack. Although Congress has been demanding for years a stricter system for identifying armed passengers, the TSA assistant secretary said it is too soon to say when a better system will be in place. He said the creation of such a system would have to take into account the nation's 800,000 sworn law enforcement officials in 18,000 different agencies. Any timeline for such a program would be "premature." However, the official said a test program called E-LEO is expected to begin next month at Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. The program will positively identify and track armed law enforcement officers through an operations center. TSA does not have a central system to track the number of passengers who bring guns aboard flights. The official said the E-LEO program "will allow us to more readily react to emergencies in the air or on the ground by identifying whether a flight has an armed law enforcement officer other than a federal air marshal."

Source:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080226/NEWS/802260383/1002>

19. *February 26, Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey; National) **Airport screeners told to speed it up.** Security screeners and supervisors at Newark Liberty International Airport are being pressured to move as many as 200 passengers through checkpoint lanes every hour to minimize wait times, according to security officials at the airport. Screening 200 fliers hourly means an average of 18 seconds of scrutiny from the time passengers place their carry-on bags on the belt for the X-ray machine to the time they clear the metal detectors -- notwithstanding any physical searches of suspicious bags or the use of hand-held metal detectors to wand passengers who set off alarms. Transportation Security Administration officials say the 200 passengers-per-hour objective is not new -- that it has been part of agency procedures at all major airports for more than two years. The 200-per-hour goal has never been widely publicized and it surprised some experts, who contend that 18 seconds of screening is not nearly enough time to thwart the threat of terrorism in the skies. TSA officials say moving 200 passengers an hour through

checkpoints is just one measure to help increase screening efficiency by reducing wait times. When the total wait exceeds 39 minutes, the slowdown is red-flagged for review by top TSA officials at the agency's Virginia headquarters. TSA screeners at Newark Liberty, like their colleagues around the nation, have consistently produced poor results when it comes to detecting fake explosives and weapons in covert tests. In October 2006, Newark Liberty checkpoint and baggage screeners missed 20 of 22 fake explosives and weapons that covert TSA agents attempted to sneak through during tests, according to federal officials familiar with the results. In November 2007, the U.S. Government Accountability Office found "our nation's airlines were vulnerable to a suicide bomber" after investigators were able to smuggle bomb parts past screeners at 19 airports.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-13/1204004801205390.xml&coll=1>

20. *February 25, United Press International* – (National) **Runway warning system still in test phase.** The Federal Aviation Administration says a warning-light system being tested at two U.S. airports is already reducing the risk of on-the-ground collisions. The agency's chief operating officer told a House subcommittee this month that the "stop lights" embedded at taxiway intersections in San Diego and Dallas-Fort Worth are "preventing potential accidents today," the Los Angeles Times reported. The system, which consists of red lights embedded in the concrete at intersections, alert pilots that another airliner is about to cross in front of them. However, the Times said, the system has yet to be adopted nationwide and is expected to remain in a test mode for some time. Engineers pointed out the warning lights are run automatically, using complex computer systems that require a great deal of fine tuning. Nevertheless, pressure to deploy the system is expected to increase as the volume of air traffic grows along with concerns about a potentially tragic collision.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Top_News/2008/02/25/runway_warning_system_still_in_test_phase/4062/

21. *February 25, Free Press* – (Michigan) **Bomb scare results in arrest, rush-hour backup on I-75.** After a traffic-choked freeway closure imposed at the height of Monday's afternoon rush, the busy lanes of I-75 at I-696 in Royal Oak, Michigan, were reopened at 5:10 p.m. following a police chase and capture of a man thought to have thrown a pipe bomb from his car. A bomb squad from the Michigan State Police exploded the suspected pipe bomb and "now they're examining the contents to see if it was actually explosive or just looked that way," the chief said. Royal Oak police earlier had said that a possible explosive had been tossed from a car driven south on I-75 by a suspect in an armed robbery.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080225/NEWS03/80225047/1005>

22. *February 25, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Memphis driving school raided by federal, state agencies.** Federal and state agencies have raided the Swift Transportation commercial truck driving school in Memphis as part of an ongoing investigation.

Authorities did not say why the raid on Monday was done. The Department of Safety said it temporarily halted the issuance of commercial drivers licenses at the school until the investigation is completed. The FBI executed search warrants at the Memphis school. Other agencies involved in the probe are the Highway Patrol's criminal investigation division, federal Department of Transportation inspector general, Secret Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, federal marshals and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5569311.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

23. *February 26, WBBH 2 Cape Coral* – (Florida) **Charlotte County Jail declared safe after biohazard scare.** In Florida, the Charlotte County Jail has been declared safe and resumed normal operation after lab tests determined that the white powder substance found Monday afternoon was not biological. The incident started just after 2:30 p.m. when a clerk in the jail mail room opened a greeting card envelope that had a white, powdery substance inside. She broke out in hives after coming in contact with the substance. The substance originally tested positive for a protein, so the jail was locked down, 500 inmates were confined to their cells, and new prisoners going to the jail were kept at an area outside the building. The air conditioning to the building was also shut off in the administrative wing to keep the unknown powder from spreading. Even after the additional tests in Tampa, authorities still do not know exactly what the substance is. They hope to have an answer by Wednesday. Source: <http://www.nbc-2.com/articles/readarticle.asp?articleid=17810&z=3>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *February 25, Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Meat plant's demise affects food chain.** As federal lawmakers began a series of hearings on Thursday debating the future of food safety inspections and accountability, it was almost certain that the Chino slaughterhouse that sparked the investigation and the largest beef recall in U.S. history will not reopen. Officials at Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. have confirmed that the recall of 143 million pounds of ground beef processed over the past two years will break the 47-year-old company. The plant's closure has had an economic impact on the local dairy community. Since Westland/Hallmark closed, Chino Livestock Market has noticed a drop-off in business at weekly auctions of about 1,500 spent dairy cows from Riverside and San Bernardino counties, the Market's owner said. Slaughterhouses out of the area bid less than Westland/Hallmark did for the skinniest cows or refuse to bid on them at all, because of the high chance they will not survive a long truck ride. In addition, he said, if a cow were crippled or weak, a local dairy might have it hauled directly to the Chino slaughterhouse rather than send it to auction. Source: http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_hallmark26.4208b06.ht

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Water Sector

25. *February 26, USA Today* – (National) **Indian tribes exercising water rights.** For decades, ranchers and farmers across the West have tapped into rivers and streams on or near Indian reservations. Now, as drought conditions plague big parts of the region, they are concerned their access to those sources could dry up. Although the U.S. Supreme Court gave tribes the primary rights to streams on their reservations in 1908, until recently, 19 tribes in the West had not exercised those rights. This year, tribes in Montana, New Mexico, Idaho, Nevada, and California are on the verge of securing their claims. That could result in less water, or higher water prices, for non-Indian agricultural producers and communities downstream, according to an attorney who represents irrigators in New Mexico's San Juan Valley. While the attorney acknowledges that Indian tribes have more water coming to them, he argues the amounts they are seeking are more than they can realistically use on the reservation. States and tribes must negotiate how much the tribes have coming before the federal rights are exercised, said the executive director of the Western States Water Council in Salt Lake City. He expects Congress to consider seven or eight settlements in 2008.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-02-25-water-rights_N.htm

26. *February 24, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Birmingham water system awaits ADEM ruling on mine permit proposal for discharge into river.** In Alabama, Birmingham Water Works officials are waiting to find out whether the state's environmental agency will allow a proposed coal strip mine to discharge water into a river near one of the water system's major drinking-water intakes. Birmingham's drinking water supply could be adversely affected if a permit drafted for the 1,773-acre Shepherd Bend LLC mine in Walker County is approved by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Water Works officials have told that agency. The proposed permit would require the mining company to meet federal standards in its discharges into the stream. But the water-quality guidelines being used do not take into account the proximity of the mine to the water-supply intake. The Water Works might have to spend more money at its filter plant to remove silt, metals such as iron and manganese, and other materials.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/birminghamnews/index.ssf?/base/news/1203844571280480.xml&coll=2>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *February 26, Eagle-Tribune* – (Massachusetts) **Lawrence: No public health nurses on the job this week.** Until two months ago, Lawrence, Massachusetts, had two public health nurses who checked on tuberculosis patients, dispensed flu shots and

immunizations, and investigated communicable disease reports. But this week, with the sole remaining nurse on vacation, there is no one doing that job. “This city is on the verge of a public health crisis,” said a Lawrence public health nurse who was laid off in December because of city budget cuts. The nurse plans to speak to city councilors Tuesday night about the need for her job in Lawrence, a city of 74,000 people — many of them immigrants whose first encounter with the health care system happens here. She said a priority for public health nurses are TB patients who, if not properly medicated and cared for, can be highly contagious. Lawrence currently has four active TB patients and approximately 100 people with a latent form of the lung disease.

Source: http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local_story_057061601.html

28. *February 26, South African Press Association and Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Egypt reports 44th case of bird flu virus.** A four-year-old girl from southern Egypt has been diagnosed as having contracted the H5N1 bird flu virus, the health ministry announced on Tuesday. The girl was admitted to hospital on Monday with a high temperature in Menya before being transferred to Cairo for further treatment, a ministry spokesman said. She became the 44th case of the virus reported in Egypt since the first outbreak was announced in February 2006. A total of 19 people have died from the virulent strain. Four people died at the start of 2008, although no fatalities have been reported over the past six months.

Source:

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=85&art_id=nw20080226105457967C648204

29. *February 26, Press Association* – (National) **Prozac ‘no better than placebos’.** A review of clinical trials found that new-generation anti-depressants such as Prozac have no more effect than a placebo for mildly depressed patients and for most people suffering severe depression. Even trials suggesting a benefit for severely depressed people did not provide evidence of clear clinical benefit, researchers at the Royal College of Psychiatrists Research Unit in the United Kingdom said. A group of experts, led by a professor from the Department of Psychology at the University of Hull, analyzed 47 clinical trials using data released under Freedom of Information rules by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The researchers looked at four commonly-used anti-depressants and the clinical trials submitted to gain licensing approval. They included antidepressants regularly prescribed in the UK, including fluoxetine (Prozac), venlafaxine (Efexor), and paroxetine (Seroxat). They found little evidence of benefit when analyzing both unpublished and published data from the drug companies.

Source:

<http://ukpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5h0HPaAGyh2GaOcoK4x69mXgxWEOA>

Government Facilities Sector

30. *February 26, Associated Press* – (International) **Bosnian Serbs try to attack U.S. consulate.** Police in Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina, fired tear gas at Bosnian Serb rioters Tuesday to prevent them from storming the building of the U.S. Consulate after

protests against Kosovo's independence. A smaller group split away from the almost 10,000 peaceful protesters in Banja Luka and headed toward the U.S. Consulate, breaking shop windows along the way and throwing stones at police who blocked the streets leading to the building with armored vehicles. Several officers were seen limping after a rain of stones poured down on them before police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd. Police were also seen detaining several demonstrators as they withdrew to a nearby park.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/europe/02/26/serbia.kosovo.ap/index.html>

31. *February 25, Saginaw News* – (Michigan) **Bomb threat empties courthouse.** In Michigan, the Saginaw County Governmental Center will reopen to the public at 8 a.m. Tuesday, the sheriff said. Monday, sheriff's deputies evacuated the four-story building because someone called in a bomb threat. Investigators found no evidence of explosives when deputies and bomb-sniffing dogs did a sweep of the building.

Source:

http://blog.mlive.com/saginawnews/2008/02/bomb_threat_empties_courthouse.html

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *February 25, Market Wire* – (National) **ePlus announces technology solution for homeland security and first responders community.** In a press release, ePlus Inc. announced "the availability of a software solution for first responders and other emergency workers. The DigitalPaper XE (Extended Enterprise) document imaging and distribution solution can provide real-time access to detailed infrastructure information for mobile users and emergency workers, including: building floor plans and schematics; evacuation routes; topographical maps and aerial photographs; civil engineering plans, including water, gas, electrical, sewer, roads, bridge, airport, and structural drawings. When emergencies occur – whether natural disasters, fires, building or bridge collapses, or hostage crises – first responders such as police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, SWAT, and HazMat teams can benefit by having fast access to pertinent information. Examples of potential uses are identifying the best exit routes for evacuation, proximity of fire hydrants, building plans, electrical drawings, and locations of hazards such as gas lines."

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/iw/080225/0365816.html>

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Information Technology

33. *February 26, IDG News Service* – (International) **YouTube outage underscores big Internet problem.** Sunday's inadvertent disruption of Google's YouTube video service underscores a flaw in the Internet's design that could some day lead to a serious security problem, according to networking experts. The issue lies in the way Internet Service Providers (ISPs) share Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) routing information. BGP is the standard protocol used by routers to find computers on the Internet, but there

is a lot of BGP routing data available. To simplify things, ISPs share this kind of information among each other. And that can cause problems when one ISP shares bad data with the rest of the Internet. That is what happened with YouTube this weekend, according to sources familiar with the situation. BGP data intended to block access to YouTube within Pakistan was accidentally broadcast to other service providers, causing a widespread YouTube outage. The chain of events that led to YouTube's partial black-out was kicked off Friday when the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) ordered the country's ISPs to block access to YouTube because of an alleged anti-Islamic video that was hosted on the site. ISPs in Pakistan were able to block YouTube by creating BGP data that redirected routers looking for YouTube.com's servers to nonexistent network destinations. But that data was accidentally shared with Hong Kong's PCCW, who in turn shared it with other ISPs throughout the Internet. Because Pakistan's BGP traffic was offering very precise routes to what it claimed were YouTube's Internet servers, routers took it to be more accurate than YouTube's own information about itself. Larger service providers typically validate BGP data from their customers to make sure that the routing information is accurate, but in this case, PCCW apparently did not do that, according to a researcher. This kind of accidental denial of service attack has happened before. By intentionally propagating bad BGP data, an attacker could knock a Web site off the Internet or even redirect visitor's traffic to a malicious server, security experts said.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/022608-youtube-outage-underscores-big-internet.html?fsrc=rss-security>

34. *February 26, TechWorld.com* – (National) **'Critical' Linux kernel bugs discovered.**

Security researchers have uncovered three "critical" security flaws in a version of the Linux kernel used by a large number of popular distributions. The bugs allow unauthorized users to read or write to kernel memory locations or to access certain resources in certain servers, according to a SecurityFocus advisory. They could be exploited by malicious local users to cause denial-of-service attacks, disclose potentially sensitive information or gain "root" privileges, the group said. The bug affects all versions of the Linux kernel up to Version 2.6.24.1, which is patched. Distributions such as Ubuntu, TurboLinux, SUSE, Red Hat, Mandriva, Debian and others are affected.

Researchers advised administrators to update their kernels immediately. Last month, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security bug-fixing scheme uncovered an average of one security glitch per 1,000 lines of code in 180 widely used open-source software projects.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9064684&source=rss_topic17

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

Communications Sector

35. *February 26, Associated Press* – (International) **Group with Google and others building cross-Pacific broadband cable.** A group of six international companies, including Google, is building a \$300-million underwater fibre optic cable linking the United States and Japan. The trans-Pacific 10,000-kilometre broadband cable system called Unity will respond to the expected growth in data and Internet traffic between Asia and the United States, the companies said in a statement Monday. A signing ceremony was held Feb. 23, they said. Besides U.S. Internet search company Google Inc., the consortium -- also named Unity -- includes Bharti Airtel Limited, India's leading integrated telecom services provider and Japanese telecommunications company KDDI Corp. The others are Malaysian Internet company Global Transit; Pacnet, a telecom company headquartered in Hong Kong and Singapore and SingTel, a leading Asian communications and mobile company. NEC Corp. and Tyco Telecommunications are suppliers for the project, set to be up and running in the first quarter of 2010. Construction begins immediately, Unity said. The cable will connect Chikura, near Tokyo, with Los Angeles and other U.S. West Coast points and the system connects to other Asian cable systems via Chikura, the companies said.

Source: http://www.mytelus.com/ncp_news/article.en.do?pn=tech&articleID=2877324

36. *February 25, Reuters* – (National) **FCC says will act on Web neutrality if needed.** The head of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission said on Monday he is "ready, willing and able" to stop broadband providers that unreasonably interfere with subscribers' access to Internet content. The comment by the FCC chairman came at the start of a day-long FCC hearing centering on allegations that some broadband providers such as telecommunications and cable companies have been improperly blocking or hindering some content. The dispute over so-called "network neutrality" pits open-Internet advocates against some service providers such as Comcast Corp, who say they need to take reasonable steps to manage traffic on their networks. The FCC chair acknowledged that broadband network operators have a legitimate need to manage the data flowing over their networks. But he said that "does not mean that they can arbitrarily block access to particular applications or services." The hearing, which included testimony from officials with Comcast and Verizon, is aimed at determining what network management techniques are reasonable.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080225/wr_nm/internet_fcc_dc

Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *February 26, Fox News* – (Virginia) **Virginia's Ferrum College on lockdown after security alert.** Ferrum College, Virginia, is on lockdown as police search for a suspicious person on campus. A Franklin County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman says the college president ordered a lockdown Tuesday morning after receiving reports of a suspicious male on the campus. The private school is in a rural setting 35 miles

south of Roanoke. She says no shots have been fired and there have been no injuries.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,332655,00.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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Dams Sector

38. *February 25, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **U.S. judge in Ore. orders Columbia dam operations extension.** To avoid more legal battles until a May 5 deadline for a new salmon recovery plan for the Northwest, a federal judge has ordered that Columbia River dams be operated under last year's guidelines. The U.S. District Judge rolled over the 2007 operating plan for hydroelectric dams into 2008 after settling a minor technical issue. In a letter last Friday to the lawyers involved in the case, he said the purpose of the "rollover agreement was to avoid time-consuming" legal motions, while the government completes a third biological opinion on the effects of dam operations on threatened and endangered salmon runs. The judge threw out the previous two opinions for failure to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act to protect and restore salmon in the Pacific Northwest. Environmental groups welcomed the extension, reached after talks with representatives of federal and state agencies and fishing and conservation groups. The National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration – Fisheries is the federal agency charged with writing the biological opinion with advice from the Bonneville Power Administration, the federal power marketing agency which sells energy from the dams, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates them, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Source: <http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-23/1203989377151850.xml&storylist=orlocal>

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